

McVitie's Milk Chocolate Hobnobs: How They Differ From a Digestive

From the teas.co.uk wiki

McVitie's Milk Chocolate Hobnobs: How They Differ From a Digestive, in summary:

Swap wheatmeal for rolled oats and you have a Hobnob: a craggy, chewy crumb, more sweetness, a longer dunk and more crumbs. On this one the milk coating leads and the oats follow.

Last reviewed by the teas.co.uk team in September 2026.

The gap between a Hobnob and a digestive comes down to one ingredient, oats in place of wheatmeal. Everything people notice, the chew, the sweetness, the [dunk](#) and the rubble in the bottom of the tin, follows from that.

Oats in place of wheatmeal

The McVitie's Digestive goes back to Alexander Grant's recipe of 1892 and is built on wheatmeal, which bakes into a fine, sandy crumb that snaps cleanly. The Hobnob starts from rolled oats instead, 30% of this biscuit by the published list, backed by wholemeal wheat flour at 16%. Oats will not bake fine, so the crumb comes out craggy, open and slightly chewy.

The oats also make it taste sweeter. They bring a toasted, cereal sweetness of their own, and the milk [chocolate](#) on one face adds plenty more: sugar, cocoa butter, cocoa mass, milk powders and butter oil. Set beside a chocolate digestive, the Hobnob is the sturdier and more indulgent of the two, so nobody should expect the oats to make it a restrained biscuit.

Dunking and the crumb problem

In the mug, the oat frame survives a longer count than a digestive, though the digestive soaks more uniformly from face to face, so longer is not automatically better. Whichever you pick, keep the chocolate uppermost and let the kettle settle for a minute before you pour, so the coating does not melt away before the biscuit has had its moment.

The nuisance is crumbs. Oat crumb has no natural break line, so it sheds as you bite, and the bottom of a Hobnob tin fills with rubble that smoother [biscuits](#) never produce. Keep a plate underneath and the biscuits away from the keyboard. That mess is the trade-off for the texture people buy them for, a biscuit you chew through instead of one that snaps and is gone.

Keeping them and choosing a cup

An open pack lasts days rather than weeks. Oat crumb soaks up damp from the kitchen fast, and once a Hobnob has gone soft there is no way back. There are no inner wraps around individual biscuits, so the whole pack is exposed once it is open: fold the wrapper tight or tip the biscuits into a tin, and store them well clear of the kettle and cooker.

For dunking, a strong [black tea](#) is the cup. For eating dry we prefer a milky coffee to a black one, since milk chocolate against black coffee can taste harsh. If you find the milk version too sweet, the dark chocolate Hobnob at the same weight lets the oats come forward and is the one to try next.

The packs we stock

- [McVitie's Hobnobs Milk Chocolate Biscuits, 262g](#) (barcode 5000396022315)

What the label says

The published ingredient list for McVitie's Hobnobs Milk Chocolate Biscuits, 262g says it contains wheat and oats (gluten), milk and soya. Check the current UK pack before purchase; formulations and allergen advice can change.

Ingredients, as published: Rolled Oats (30%), Milk Chocolate (25%) [Sugar, Cocoa Butter, Cocoa Mass, Dried Skimmed Milk, Dried Whey (Milk), Butter Oil (Milk), Vegetable Fats (Palm, Shea), Emulsifiers (Soya Lecithin, E476), Natural Flavouring], Wholemeal Wheat Flour (16%), Sugar, Vegetable Oil (Palm), Glucose-Fructose Syrup, Raising Agents (Sodium Bicarbonate, Ammonium Bicarbonate), Salt.

Typical values per 100g Per 100g

Energy	494 kcal
Fat	23.3g
of which saturates	11.5g
Carbohydrate	61.4g
of which sugars	32.3g
Fibre	5.2g
Protein	7.0g
Salt	0.75g

Ingredient and nutrition information for this product, as published on the manufacturer's label. The pack in your hands is the final word.

What to drink with it

- [Glengettie Welsh Breakfast Tea, 80 Tea Bags 250g](#): A strong breakfast brew for dunking, sturdy enough to meet milk chocolate and oats.
- [Yorkshire Tea Gold Blend Loose Leaf Tea, 250g](#): [Loose leaf](#) brewed strong in a pot, for the tin-and-teapot afternoon these biscuits suit.
- [Nescafe Gold Blend Intense Instant Coffee, 190g](#): An instant coffee to make milky, the dry-eating partner we prefer to a black cup with milk chocolate.
- [Tetley Redbush Vanilla, 40 Tea Bags 100g](#): [Redbush](#) with vanilla, a softer cup that sits comfortably beside a sweet oat biscuit.

Elsewhere in the McVitie's range

- [McVitie's Club Layers Orange, 39g](#)
- [McVitie's Club Mint Biscuit Bars Multipack, 7 Bars 154g](#)
- [McVitie's Club Orange Biscuit Bars Multipack, 7 Bars 154g](#)
- [McVitie's Club Salted Caramel Flavour Biscuit Bars Multipack, 7 x 22g](#)
- [McVitie's Dark Chocolate Digestive Biscuits, 266g](#)
- [McVitie's Digestive Pink Raspberry & Cream Flavour, Limited Edition, 232g](#)

The full range is on the [McVitie's brand page](#).

FAQ

What is the difference between a Hobnob and a digestive? The base. A Hobnob is made with rolled oats and a digestive with wheatmeal, so the Hobnob is craggier, chewier and sweeter.

Do Hobnobs dunk better than digestives? They last longer in the mug, while a digestive soaks more evenly. Keep the chocolate side up either way.

Why is there always a layer of crumbs in a Hobnob tin? Oat crumb breaks unevenly and sheds as you handle it, so rubble collects at the bottom. Eat them over a plate.

How long does an open pack of Hobnobs stay fresh? Days rather than weeks. Reseal it tightly or move the biscuits to a tin away from steam.

Are milk chocolate Hobnobs suitable for vegan or gluten-free diets? No. The published allergen advice lists wheat and oats, which contain gluten, together with milk and soya.

Curator's note: A plate under them, a strong mug beside them, and accept the crumbs as part of the pleasure. Lee, teas.co.uk, Tunbridge Wells.

In short: McVitie's Milk Chocolate Hobnobs: How They Differ From a Digestive

Field	Detail
Brand	McVitie's
Packs we stock	262g
Category	Chocolate Biscuits

Field	Detail
Allergens (as published)	It contains wheat and oats (gluten), milk and soya.
Dunkable	Yes, longer than a digestive
Best with	Strong black tea, or a milky coffee
Watch out for	Crumbs in the tin

More from the tea wiki

- [Tea and Biscuits](#)
- [Biscuit Dunking Physics: The Real Science](#)
- [Tea Pairing Principles: Reason, Don't Memorise](#)
- [Tea With Cake: The Pairing That Never Fails \(If You Get It Right\)](#)
- [Tea and Food Pairing: The Five Principles](#)
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